GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
CLEARANCE TO NTPC PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation`s ambitious plan to diversify into hydro-electric generation and coal mining is likely to be delayed due to environmental and land acquisition issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (c) : NTPC Ltd. has taken up implementation of three Hydro-Electric Power Projects (HEPP), namely, Koldam HEPP (4x200 MW), Loharinag Pala HEPP (4x150 MW) and Tapovan Vishnugad HEPP (4x130 MW) which are likely to be commissioned during the 11th Plan period. There is no issue relating to environmental clearance and land acquisition affecting the implementation of the above projects.

So far as coal mining projects of NTPC Ltd. are concerned, Government has allocated six coal blocks to NTPC Ltd., which are under various stages of development. In view of the fact that environment and forest clearance process and land acquisition process are time-consuming, NTPC Ltd. has been making efforts to expedite them so as to commence mining in line with the schedule as per the norms of the Ministry of Coal.

In view of the issues in respect of the forest clearance and land acquisition relating to the Pakri-Barwadih block in the State of Jharkhand, this Ministry has requested the Government of Jharkhand to expedite `No-objection Certificate (NOC)` for forest clearance as well as finalization of schedule of rates for land acquisition.